

WINTER WEATHER AWARENESS

The past few winters have been relatively mild across the region and may have some of you thinking that these are normal winters for this area. However, those who have lived in Middle Tennessee for a while will tell you that we are well overdue for a bad winter. Heavy snow or ice can trap people in their homes or automobiles. People are inconvenienced, injured or even killed. The 1998 Christmas Eve ice storm caused over 17 million dollars of damage and widespread transportation problems. Also, the winter of '95-96 saw many areas of the Southeastern U.S. experiencing a number of very heavy snow and ice storms. Many portions of central Tennessee were without power for several days. The time to prepare for winter weather is before it hits.



Know the Threat!!

Some of the hazards associated with winter are:

- Snow, sleet and/or freezing rain can immobilize a region and paralyze a city. Accumulations of snow can collapse buildings and knock down trees and power lines. Rural areas may be isolated for days. Each household should have provisions and the ability to remain self-sufficient for at least 3 days without power, or help, as it may take this long to reopen main roads and reestablish vital services.
- Hypothermia is the lowering of the body's core temperature. It can occur in warm as well as cold weather. Warning signs are uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion. *Detection* - If the body temperature is below 95°F, seek medical care immediately. This situation is life-threatening. If care is not immediately available, begin to warm the person slowly, starting with the core. Get the person into warm clothing, wrapped in a warm blanket covering the head and neck. Do not give alcohol, drugs, coffee, or any very hot beverage or food; warm broth is better. Do not warm the extremities first; this drives cold blood toward the heart and may cause heart failure.
- Wind Chill is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin. It is caused by a combination of wind and cold. As wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving body temperature down. Animals are also affected by wind chill. One question that always comes up with wind chill is whether it affects water pipes and car radiators. The answer is "No." The accelerated loss of heat occurs on exposed skin only.
- Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by the tissue being frozen. Frostbite causes the loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, earlobes, or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help IMMEDIATELY. If you must wait for help, slowly re-warm affected areas. If the person is also showing signs of hypothermia, warm the body core before the extremities.

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 09, 2009

All AEDC employees have the responsibility and authority to stop work when there is imminent danger to an individual. This authority applies to Air Force/DoD, ATA, and outside contractors. If you observe an unsafe action or condition that needs immediate attention (i.e., one that creates immediate danger to life or health), call the ATA Safety Hotline, 454-7233 (S-A-F-E). This number rings in ATA Safety weekdays 0630-1600. The Operations Center answers calls at night, on weekends, and after the fourth ring during regular duty hours. To report other unsafe conditions e-mail a completed [Form GC-1703 Safety Observation Report](#) to Rich Eichel or send a hard copy to MS 7000 or fax 454-7351.



FALL PROTECTION: **BLUE**; RIGGING: **GREEN OR BLUE**

TOOLBOX TOPICS

